



**City of  
Norfolk**

Inter Department Correspondence Sheet

TO: \_\_\_\_\_ City Council

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ City Clerk

COPIES TO: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_ Minutes of City Council Meeting

March 15, 2017

Attached are the minutes from the Council meeting held on March 7, 2017.

R. Breckenridge Daughtrey

## **NORFOLK, VIRGINIA**

### **MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017**

Mayor Alexander called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Graves, Ms. Johnson, Ms. McClellan, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Mr. Thomas and Dr. Whibley.

He thereupon called for the City Manager to review the agenda. That being done, he moved to the first item of business.

#### **A. HRT Budget Update**

The City Manager reported on this as follows:

- The City will be required to allocate an additional \$2 million as a true-up to HRT's FY-2016 budget.
- Reasons for the additional amount include lower ridership and overtime costs.
- In a meeting with HRT, the city asked for an audit to be conducted and HRT has agreed.
- Thelma Drake has been assigned to work with HRT on this present issue.

#### **B. RETREAT RECAP**

The City Manager reviewed the results of the February council retreat and asked for feedback.

Ms. McClellan reminded him of the need for a dashboard to track follow up.

The rules of procedure were designed and adopted for the benefit and convenience of the Norfolk City Council. Their purpose is to help City Council conduct its affairs in a timely and efficient manner. They incorporate the general principles of parliamentary procedure. Council priorities for work sessions include: education, safety, housing, resilience, infrastructure and technology. Mr. Smith asked for comments or changes.

Councilwoman McClellan:

- Provide a tracking mechanism for Council to follow-up and track items.
- Section 4-1 - clarify format and language for the introduction of an Ordinance.
- Section 8, 8-3 - clarify that meeting minutes are available on the city's web site.

Mayor Alexander:

- If a Council member has an idea for an Ordinance, it should be vetted by all members.
- Continue having Council concerns at every meeting

Councilwoman Graves:

- Provide timely follow-up on the status of any items needing further discussion due to legal concerns, etcetera.

Vice Mayor Whibley:

- If a member has an Ordinance proposal, Council can take a casual straw vote to see if it would pass.

Councilman Smigiel:

- If an Ordinance proposal has 5 members in its favor, it can be submitted to the City Manager to be put on the docket.
- Asked for more thorough responses to Council concerns.

Councilman Riddick:

- Asked Council not to be over-zealous in trying to set policy that should be set by the City Manager.

Councilman Thomas:

- Section 2.2, Item B - include email notice.
- Section 5-2, D - clarify that when an applicant has signed up to answer questions only, that the item can remain on the Consent Agenda.
- Section 5-4, Number 8 – remove the word activation and clarify the word sound.
- Section 8-1 - Include Youtube and the city Web site.
- Agreed that during Council Concerns is appropriate for vetting ideas but disagreed with using the word “Ordinance” in Section 4-1 because there are items approved by Council that do not require an Ordinance.

### **C. DOWNTOWN PUBLIC PARKING**

Mr. Smith reported that with the opening of The Waterside and The Main, staff will look at how the city is going to accommodate additional parking in garages and surface lots and how the increased need for garbage pickup and increased traffic flow will be planned for. He stated a committee that includes staff from Parking, Public Works and the Downtown Norfolk Council (DNC) is looking at all of these items and will report back to Council. Ms. McClellan suggested using technology to provide real-time parking updates.

### **D. NORFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Mr. Smith stated he and senior staff have met with Superintendent Melinda Boone and staff as a “meet-and-greet” but the budget was not discussed. Councilman Smigiel suggested Council meet with Dr. Boone and Chairman Jordan before Council begins budget discussions. Vice Mayor Whibley noted Council has only met with the School Board on two occasions since September, and reiterated joint meetings should occur at least four times a year. Councilwoman Graves suggested that Dr. Boone and Mr. Jordan should not have to attend the budget hearing to restate their position if they submit their budget to Council at the meeting.

Councilman Smigiel noted that NPS will lose 34 teachers due to the enrollment decrease. The school system is also losing teachers to Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, and other districts that offer higher salaries. If Council is going to make schools a priority, it has to work with NPS and look at what are the true needs. He added that Norfolk is past the budget cycles of all the other local districts’ funding decisions so their school boards know how many teachers they can hire.

Councilwoman Johnson expressed concern about the number of long-term substitute teachers at at-risk schools. Some have been there since September because they cannot get anyone to fill vacant positions. Councilman Riddick expressed disappointment in not seeing positive results from plans presented by previous superintendents. He suggested some teachers might be leaving because of hostile working conditions and not because of salary. Councilwoman Graves echoed Councilman Riddick, noting that each new superintendent presents a plan that never comes to fruition because they leave the district.

Mayor Alexander stressed that in order for the school division to compete with other local divisions, it will require paying teachers more. Presently 38 percent of the city's budget is dedicated to K-12 public education. He suggested that instead of lump sum funding that categorical funding be considered. Councilman Smigiel stated that before looking at categorical funding, Council needs to look at how the school district is spending its money in those categories.

Councilwoman Graves suggested having a liaison attend the school board meetings and then report back to City Council.

#### **E. LOAN MAX**

George Homewood, Director of Planning reported as follows:

The property burned down and the applicant would like to rebuild. The Norview/Military intersection is identified as a gateway intersection due to its proximity to the airport. At this time there is parking on the Military Highway side which did not exist previously, so there is a little bit of sheltering for the neighborhood.

After meeting with Economic Development, Planning determined the highest and best use for the property to be food, convenience retail, lodging and automobile rental. Many of the properties along this portion of Military Highway are not currently being utilized to their highest and best use; however, there is currently a demand for existing uses of used tire shops, used car sales, pawn shops, etcetera. It is often difficult to change the pattern of uses on a parcel-by-parcel basis without a larger development proposal. Recently a new Priority Ford dealership was approved on a 6.3-acre site to the southeast of this site. Given the current parcel size, the highest and best use may not be achievable without a greater assemblage of land to create a larger parcel size.

Councilman Riddick stated that restaurants and hotels would be more appropriate with the Outlet Mall coming to the area and possibly a technical school at Lake Taylor. Councilman Smigiel echoed Councilman Riddick's suggestion and added that light rail could potentially have a route through Military Highway. Councilwoman Johnson suggested focusing on future plans and promoting Five Points as the next gateway corridor.

## **F. CLOSED SESSION**

Motion for closed session was approved for purposes which are set out in **Clause(s) 3, 7 and 29 of subsection (A) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act**, as amended:

- (3) Discussion of the disposition of publicly held real property in the Villa Heights, East Ocean View and Military Highway areas of the city.
- (7) Consultation with legal counsel regarding four legal matters: 1) the liability for destruction of buildings 2) exposures under littering ordinances; 3) lease issues and 4) a vacancy issue.
- (29) Discussion of terms and scope of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds where discussion in open session would adversely affect the negotiating strategy of the public body.

Yes: Graves, Johnson, McClellan, Riddick, Smigiel, Thomas, Whibley and Alexander.

No: None.